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Description

Optoacoustic operator's guide for mobile radio telephones.

- 5 The invention relates to the output of help information on a mobile radio device.

Modern mobile telephones or cell phones offer an increasing number of functions to the user for the operation of the device itself and for the input of, for example, SMS (short message service) messages or for calling up Internet content. To support the user, help text or information text can be called up, which is then displayed on the display device of the mobile telephone. The disadvantage of this is that help can also be provided for the information shown on the display. This means that while the help text is being displayed the user cannot use the telephone properly because the information normally displayed on the display device is necessary for this purpose.

- 20 The object of the invention is to make the use of the mobile telephone easier for the user.

This object is achieved in accordance with the invention by the features given in the claims.

- 25 The function of outputting help text in accordance with the invention no longer requires the use of the display device of the telephone. The user can therefore read all the information shown in the display in parallel with the help information and use his telephone quite normally. The help text itself is reduced by combining the voice output with an appropriate illuminated button. This makes it easier for the user to understand the operating instructions and also memory space for voice output is saved and the
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administration of country- or language-versions is simplified.

The invention is described in more detail in the following with the aid of an exemplary embodiment.

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The invention offers the user optoacoustic operating instructions for his mobile telephone.

10 To do this, help topics are stored relative to context in the mobile telephone. This particularly means a function-specific or situation-dependent collection of help topics or help information. The output of the help information is activated on demand, for example by the press of a button or the input of a suitable voice command.

15 The help information itself, in accordance with the invention, consists of verbal information in conjunction with a signaling button. This is a button that is illuminated appropriately and also, for example, flashes. Because on a cell phone the buttons are normally illuminated, this signaling button is particularly easy to
20 realize. To do this, for example, the illumination of buttons not involved can be switched off so that the button to be actuated can be easily recognized. Also, the signaling button can be controlled to provide a brighter illumination than the others.

25 The invention combines voice output for help information with the appropriate illumination of one or more buttons. Calling up help functions leads to a voice output of a help text via a loudspeaker in the telephone. Combined with the voice output, the button(s) that have to be pressed to achieve the required function can, for
30 example, be illuminated individually in turn.

If it is necessary to press and hold a button or to press it several times to achieve a specific function, this can be signaled to the user by a correspondingly long or repeated illumination of this button.

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This help support can take the following course.

The user keys in an SMS, for example, and does not know how to switch off the T9 mode. He presses a help button and a voice then
10 explains "To switch off T9 in the normal input mode press". At the same time the relevant button illuminates, in that, for example, the brightness of illumination of the other buttons is reduced. In order even in a bright environment to be able to detect which key the help text refers to, the relevant button can also be controlled so that
15 it is particularly brightly illuminated. It can also flash and/or the other keys could also be briefly switched off.

Pressing the help button again could call up other help texts that can be used in this context. A context-sensitive sequence of offered
20 help text would make the invention even more attractive to the user.

In the above example, when an SMS is input, an instruction to switch to the normal input mode would not be given when the help button is pressed after detection of a complete word in T9 mode; instead an
25 explanation, e.g. of how the SMS can be saved or transmitted, would be provided.

Similar examples are to be found in the operation of the telephone book, when calling up subscriber lists or calling up Internet
30 content. In all these situations, the information content of the

presently active applications that can be displayed simultaneously
as help is important to the user.